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INNOVAWOOD SUPPLEMENT

1 EVENTS, CONFERENCES AND COURSES

Growing towards the future – Joint innovation for successful forest-based business in Europe. Forest Technology Platform (FTP) conference in Slovenia, 19-21 May 2008. Visit <http://www.forestplatform.org/index.php?mid=175> for more information.

Training course for Framework 7 advisors – the role of the Framework 7 advisor, writing competitive proposals and negotiating and managing Framework contracts. Brussels, Belgium. 8-10 July 2008.

Visit <http://www.hyperion.ie> for more information.

FORMOD Summer School: ‘Modelling forest community organisation, functions and dynamics for improving forest management.’ Le Tholy, north-east France, 6-14 September 2008.

See section 2 below for more information, or alternatively visit the FORMOD website at <https://www2.nancy.inra.fr/collectif/formod/pages/flyer.htm>.

‘Woodfuel supply chain – Sharing experience’ International Workshop. Warwick, England, 14-19 September 2008.

Visit <http://www.ieabioenergytask31.org> for more information.

3rd International Softwood Conference. Helsinki, Finland, 16-17 October 2008.

For more information visit the conference website at the following address: http://eos-oes.ue/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=39&itemid=12.

2 NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG FORESTRY RESEARCHERS

Further to the theme of the InnovaWood feature on networking presented in the March issue of the COFORD newsletter (volume 8, number 3), the FORMOD summer school represents not only a great educational event but is also an opportunity for post graduate students to interact and exchange with researchers from a variety of countries sharing a similar thematic background.

The summer school is intended for young researchers and Ph.D. students involved in forest ecosystem and forest management research, ecology, biology and wood sciences. It is organised by NFZForest.net, a European research and training network made up of eight universities and research institutes from France, Germany and Switzerland. Participants from European and non-European countries are welcome.

More information is available from <http://www.nancy.inra.fr/formod>. The organisers can be contacted directly by sending an email to formod@nancy.inra.fr.

3 CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

One year into the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) and action is now well underway, with the third call for proposals currently active. Detailed information on each of the calls and on the first projects already accepted for funding under FP7 can be obtained from CORDIS, the EU's official information service for research and development. The profiles of 133 projects in the information and communications technology (ICT) research theme are now available online, with projects in nanoelectronics, software and security represented. The first call for project proposals represented a total budget of just over €1 billion. Visit CORDIS online at <http://cordis.europa.eu/en/home.html>.

The calls issued under FP7 relevant for researchers and organisations active in various branches of the forestry sector and forest sciences are outlined briefly below. More calls are expected in the coming months.

3.1 People Specific Programme

The People Specific Programme of the EU's 7th Framework Programme will run from 2007-2013. The purpose of the People Programme is to make Europe more attractive for the best researchers across all disciplines, including forestry. The programme is dedicated entirely to human resources in research. The budget of over €4.7 billion will be implemented through Marie Curie actions under five headings:

- (i) initial training of researchers;
- (ii) life-long training and career development;
- (iii) industry-academia pathways and partnerships;
- (iv) international dimension and
- (v) specific policy actions.

The actions initiated under the People Specific Programme address researchers at all stages of their careers, in both public and private sectors. Funding is not bound to specific topics; i.e., research fields are chosen freely by the applicants. Funding is provided for the most interesting and worthy proposals.

Transnational and intersectoral mobility is a key feature of the People Specific Programme. Participation by enterprises, particularly SMEs, is encouraged, as is the enhancement of industry-academia cooperation in terms of research training, career development and knowledge sharing.

Proposals covered by the People Specific Programme will, depending on the action, be submitted either by one or several organisations or by an individual researcher in liaison with a host organisation.

More detailed information on the Marie Curie actions can be found in the January/February InnovaWood supplement to the COFORD newsletter (volume 8, number 1 & 2), and online under <http://cordis.europa.eu/mariecurie-actions/>.

Open calls

ACRONYM	GRANT SCHEME	OBJECTIVES	CLOSING DATE
ERG	European Reintegration Grants	The (re)integration of experienced researchers into a research career after transnational mobility experience as part of Marie Curie actions. To encourage researchers to build on their international experience within the framework of a coherent professional project and to promote their own research career perspectives.	31.12.08
IRG	International Reintegration Grants	To encourage European researchers active in research outside of Europe for a period of more than three years to reintegrate and contribute to European research by transferring the knowledge they have acquired abroad.	31.12.08
IEF	Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development	To support the career development of experienced researchers at different stages of their careers, and enhance the diversification of their skills.	19.08.08
IIF	International Incoming Fellowships	To reinforce the scientific excellence of the member states through knowledge sharing with incoming top class researchers from outside of Europe, encouraging them to work on European projects with a view to developing mutually beneficial research cooperation between Europe and non-European countries.	19.08.08
IOF	International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development	The aim of this action is to reinforce the international dimension of the careers of European researchers by providing them with the opportunity to train and acquire new knowledge while working in a high level research organisation outside of Europe. These researchers will subsequently return to Europe with their acquired knowledge and experience.	19.08.08

It is expected that more calls for proposals for Marie Curie actions will be opened in the coming months, including calls under the Initial Training Networks, which is geared towards young researchers.

3.2 Cooperation Specific Programme

The Cooperation Specific Programme is a key element of the EU's support for the further development of European research. It includes a range of activities targeting the optimisation of research programmes and priorities. Through the ERA-NET and ERA-NET Plus activities, and through Article 169 Actions, the Cooperation Programme includes measures to increase the coordination of national and regional programmes. The implementation of the Joint Technology Initiatives and the advice

drawn from ongoing consultation with Technology Platforms ensures the focus of this work programme on areas of strategic importance for industrial needs and societal challenges.

Open calls

Currently calls for proposals under the following themes relevant to researchers in the forest-based sector are open:

THEME	CLOSING DATE
Food, agriculture, fisheries and biotechnology	12.08.08
Energy	12.08.08
Environment (including climate change)	12.08.08

3.3 Ideas Specific Programme

The fundamental principle behind all European Research Council (ERC) activities is to stimulate investigator-initiated frontier research across all fields of research, on the basis of excellence. Under the Idea Specific Programme grants and awards will operate according to simple procedures that maintain the focus on excellence, encourage initiative and combine flexibility with accountability.

The ERC aims to add value to other funding schemes by encouraging competition at the European level and to complement other research activities under the 7th Framework Programme, including the Marie Curie schemes, strategic basic research in support of thematic priorities, and support for European infrastructures. The Idea Specific Programme grants support projects carried out by individual teams headed by a single principal investigator. These teams may be of a national or a transnational character.

Open calls

Call for European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant for Life Sciences. The objective is to encourage and support excellent, innovative investigator-instigated research by leading researchers. The advanced grant is open to experienced researchers with a proven track record of exceptional research over a period of ten years or more. Scientists either working in or seeking to work in Europe may apply. This may appeal to experienced forest ecologists, zoologists, botanists, etc. The deadline for proposals is April 22nd, 2008.

More calls under the Ideas Programme are expected during the year.